



Utilization of Rhode Island Government Information Exchange Feeds

This document defines conditions for displaying Rhode Island Government Information Exchange Feeds on state websites. Others are strongly encouraged to adopt these guidelines for proper attribution of information, which provides users with details about the source and authority of the information, and to ensure continued access to state government information feeds.

Display guidelines for websites utilizing feeds

The following information must be displayed (unless noted as optional) when using Rhode Island Government Information Feeds. Information is drawn from the elements required by the *RSS Specifications for Creation of Rhode Island Government Information Exchange Feeds*. Utilization of these elements can be automated through your parser (eg, Magpie, REX parser).

Feed elements

Element	Purpose	Required?
title	The name of the feed (or “channel”). This information is contained in the <title> element of the channel.	Required for state agencies; strongly encouraged for others.
link	The URL to the HTML website corresponding to the information represented in the feed title. This information is contained in the <link> element of the <channel>. The feed title must be linked to this URL.	Required for state agencies; strongly encouraged for others.
description	Phrase or sentence describing the feed, including the official agency name of the content provider. It also includes any official language about the feed that should be displayed, with the comment “recommended language.”	Optional. Use of any “recommended language” is strongly encouraged.
	RSS identifier, linked to URL of feed. Enables users to add the RSS feed to their aggregator. RSS logo must be linked to the actual RSS feed; the image must be tagged with alt text: RSS feed for [title of feed]. If the feed is filtered, add the filter criteria, e.g., RSS feed for Upcoming Meetings for [Town]. Shortening the title is acceptable to condense the alt text. Logo is available on the REX site.	Required for state agencies; strongly encouraged for others.
	Rhode Island eGovernment Exchange logo, linked to the REX site, http://www.ri.gov/rex/ REX logo must be tagged with alt text: REX, RI egovernment exchange. Logo is available on the REX site	Required for state agencies; strongly encouraged for others.

Item Elements

Element	Description	Required?
title	The title of the item.	Required.
link	The URL of the item.	Required.

description	The item synopsis.	Optional
pubDate	Indicates when the item was published.	Required, if description is displayed.
source	The RSS channel that the item came from, derived from its <title> and URL of HTML page corresponding to the feed title if feeds are aggregated.	Required, if multiple feeds are aggregated.

Technical requirements

Feeds should be cached on the data consumers' servers as follows:

- Feeds that have <ttl> (time to live) lengths may not be accessed more frequently than specified in the <ttl> element.
- When there is no <ttl> tag and access is not specified, feeds may not be accessed more frequently than once an hour.

The data owner of any RSS/XML feed has the right to limit access to feeds based on server capacity. Any user of data feeds included in the Rhode Island Government Information Exchange project agrees to abide by these specifications. Failure to abide by these specifications may result in denial of service to the offending party.

Resources & Related Documents

Rhode Island eGovernment Information Exchange (REX): <http://www.ri.gov/rex/>

RSS 2.0 Specification: <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/tech/rss/>

RSS Specifications for Creation of Rhode Island Government Information Exchange Feeds

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